

PROGRAM SPECIFICS



Reimbursement

Participating schools and institutions receive reimbursement from the USDA for each half-pint of milk served.

To receive reimbursement, participants must submit a claim at the end of each month. Milk provided to children who qualify for free milk will be reimbursed at the school's average price per half-pint. Currently, milk provided to children on a paid basis is reimbursed at an average of 17 cents per half-pint.

Qualifying Agencies

Public or private nonprofit schools qualify to participate in the Special Milk Program. Schools must not already participate in another School Nutrition Program or have children who do not have access to existing programs (kindergarten and/or preschool children who attend half days).



Montana Office of Public Instruction
School Nutrition Programs
PO Box 202501
Helena, MT 59620-2501
(406)444-2501
www.opi.mt.gov/schoolfood/index.html

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THE SPECIAL MILK PROGRAM

Office of Public Instruction
School Nutrition Programs



"Helping our children grow
and learn."

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GOT MILK?

Milk does
a child
good.

Milk is one of the cornerstones of a healthful diet. Children who consume healthful foods like milk are better able to perform in school and grow to their fullest potential.



If your school is not currently participating in any other School Nutrition Program, or if you have kindergarten or pre-school children who do not have access to your Lunch or Breakfast Programs, your school is eligible to participate in the SPECIAL MILK PROGRAM.

This program provides reimbursement for milk served to children. The goal of this program is to enable schools to provide milk at a reduced price or free to students.

Why Participate?

Why not? The paperwork is simple and will enable your school to provide healthful snacks to your children at little or no cost.

Healthy, well-fed children build healthy habits, are better able to perform in school, and enjoy fewer sick days. One cup of milk provides important nutrients that all children need to grow healthy and strong. They include calcium, vitamins A & D, riboflavin and protein.

How do I get started?

Simply contact the Office of Public Instruction, School Nutrition Programs. Instructions and support will be provided to help you initiate your own Special Milk Program.



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GENERAL GUIDELINES

The Special Milk Program must be operated on a nonprofit basis.

Any child at a participating school can get milk through this program. Children may buy milk or receive it free, depending on the school's choice of program options.

Program Options

Schools may choose to conduct a ***“non-pricing”*** program where the full price of milk is absorbed by the school. The benefits of this option are that children and schools are not required to submit paperwork for free milk, and children do not have to pay out-of-pocket for their milk. If you choose this option, half-pints will **ONLY** be reimbursed at 17 cents (or current reimbursement rate) apiece.

Schools may also choose to use a ***“pricing”*** program with the free option. The benefit of this option is that the school will be reimbursed the full price paid for half-pints provided to qualifying participants. If your school chooses this option, families and schools will be required to complete and maintain paperwork to check income eligibility for free milk.

Milk Choices

To be reimbursed, your school must serve milk that meets the USDA and standards for the Special Milk Program. You must use fluid, pasteurized milk. Whole milk, low-fat regular or flavored milk, skim regular or flavored milk, and buttermilk are all acceptable options, but low-fat or skim is recommended.